Katie Pugliese

AP Literature 12

January 7, 2010

Title analysis reflection

The title analysis assignment was interesting because I thought it was a neat idea to examine the characteristics of a poem’s title that make it appropriate for that poem. The prompt wasn’t difficult to understand, but when we first started the assignment I thought I wouldn’t have much to write about. However, when I started researching the history of the Barbie doll, I found a lot of things to examine. I was also pretty proud of myself for making the connection between the title and the implication of barbiturates. This may not be what the author intended, but poetry is versatile enough to be interpreted in so many different contexts. My “so what” point was that the author intended to illustrate the pain that societal roles can cause, especially in young women. It breaks my heart to read a poem like this because I know there are countless girls of all ages out there who truly believe they are ugly and do drastic things to change their bodies. Beauty is relative, and I honestly think that if you see yourself as beautiful then you are just that. Kudos to Marge Piercy for writing such an eye-opening poem, especially considering the negative body image most girls have because of the media. In this paper, I should’ve remembered my lower order concerns more, especially with the in-text citations. In the future I won’t just plop quotes into a text, and I’ll make sure I’m using the proper format when I cite things. Your comments helped a lot, especially because I love getting praise from a teacher on my writing. It makes my day! But I also value the criticism since that’s what really helps me be a better writer. All in all, this essay was a fascinating one and I’ll write about women’s lib any day.